

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 15 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13 and 22, respectively. Claims 2-12 are amended to correspond to amended claim 1. Claims 13, 14, 21 and 22 are canceled. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Stafira at the interview held December 7, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-11 and 17-20 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 12, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,224 (Yamashita); claims 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamashita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,726,313 (Oda); and claims 14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamashita in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,040 (Mestha). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As acknowledged by the Office Action and by the Examiner during the December 7 personal interview, Yamashita fails to disclose the subject matter of claims 13, 14, 21 and 22. Claims 1 and 15 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13 and 22, respectively. Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the personal interview, Yamashita does not anticipate claims 1 and 15.

With respect to the rejection of claims 13 and 21 over Yamashita in view of Oda, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the December 7 personal interview, there is no

motivation to combine Yamashita with Oda as suggested by the Office Action. In particular, Yamashita is directed to an optical scan head and Oda is directed to an inkjet printer. As acknowledged by the Examiner during the December 7 personal interview, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to combine Yamashita with Oda.

With respect to the rejection of claims 14 and 22 over Yamashita in view of Mestha, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the December 7 personal interview, there is no motivation to combine Yamashita with Mestha as suggested in the Office Action. In particular, Yamashita is directed to an optical scan head and Mestha is directed to a xerographic device. As acknowledged by the Examiner during the December 7 personal interview, one of ordinary skill would not be motivated to combine Yamashita with Mestha.

For the foregoing reasons, and as acknowledged by the Examiner during the December 7 personal interview, Yamashita, Oda and/or Mestha, in any combination, fail to anticipate or otherwise render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 15, as well as the claims depending therefrom.

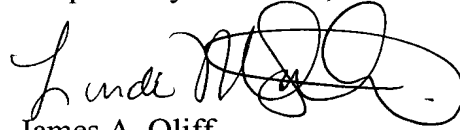
Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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